

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action mailed May 4, 2005, is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 14, 21, 28 have been amended. Claims 2-3, 15, 22, 33, 38, 69-71, 74-77, 83, and 85-86 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, 7-14, 16-17, 21, 23-24, 28-32, 34, 36-37, 39, 67-68, 72-73, 78-82, 84, and 87-89 remain pending. R groups specified in dependent claims 36, 37, 68, 70, 74, 76, 83, and 85 were added to the independent claims. Therefore, these amendments have been made without the addition of new matter.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-4, 7-17, 21-24, 28-34, 38, 67, 69, 71-73, 75, 77-82, 84, and 86-89 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Heller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,632,957), taken in view of Sosnowski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,051,380).

Applicants have amended the independent claims to specify that “*R is selected from the group consisting of wherein R is selected from the group consisting of streptavidin, a portion of streptavidin, biotin, phenyl boronic acid, salicylic hydroxamic acid, acetal, and thioester moieties.*” These specific R groups were listed in dependent claims 36, 37, 39, 68, 70, 74, 76, 83, and 85, which the examiner had previously indicated as allowable. Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited references teach or suggest the specified R groups. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as currently amended.

Allowability

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the examiner's indication that claims 36, 37, 39, 68, 70, 74, 76, 83, and 85 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicants assert the claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action on the merits of the claims is therefore earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, please contact Applicants' undersigned representative at (949) 737-2900. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-2862.

Respectfully submitted,
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